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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

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MAY 13 1944

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 469

January 1, 1943.

U.S. TO SHARE TIRES WITH LATIN NATIONS as part payment for that future supply of crude rubber expected from the southern republics. Board of Economic Warfare officials assert that the shipments are "in line with our policy to share with Latin-America our shortages as well as our surpluses." How many tires are being exported and to what countries has not been disclosed. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BEW SIMPLIFIES FORMS FOR SHIPMENTS DESTINED TO LATIN AMERICA. The new form, identified as Form BEW 166, combines the standard application form for export licenses with the ship space application, and will shortly require exporters to submit only a single and shortened form with respect to shipments to Latin America. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

KEEL OF FIRST ALL-WOOD SAILING SHIP IN BRAZIL is laid in a Rio shipyard. The ship, first of a series, will be named Vittoria and will have a capacity of 8,900 tons. (N.Y. Times)

"MODEL AGREEMENT" CONCLUDED BETWEEN BRAZIL AND U.S. Expected to foreshadow the type of agreement eventually to be reached with the other major nations of the Western Hemisphere, the new pact is the product of a general reorganization centralizing United States economic agencies in seven Latin American countries under embassy counselors for economic affairs. With the work of the United States agencies in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, Chile and Argentina thus coordinated, it has been possible under the new Brazil agreement to create in Rio a central United States commercial authority to study all applications for purchases in the U.S., weigh them against Brazilian requirements, and to cooperate with the Carteria de Exportação e Importação of the Banco de Brasil in issuing preference requests on qualified orders. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CHILEAN-AXIS BREAK PREDICTED IN MEXICO by Vicente Lombardo Toledano, president of the Confederation of Latin American Workers. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA REQUIRES PURCHASE OF BONDS through law authorizing in internal loan of 60,000,000 pesos which requires an investment in "national economic defense bonds" to be issued for the loan. Foreign capital brought into the country must be invested in bonds up to 20 percent of the total. This requirement also hits semi-official organizations such as the Rubber Reserve Corporation, which brings money into the country to buy raw rubber. The proceeds of the loan will be used to liquidate the deficit in the 1942 budget, to balance the 1943 budget and for public works and the development of industry and agriculture. (N.Y. Times)

COLOMBIA INCREASED PRODUCTION OF SUGAR from 45,000 tons in 1940 to 52,000 long tons in 1941. In addition to this commercial production, a considerable quantity of low grade brown sugar known as "panela" is made in the rural sections by the innumerable small hand-operated "trapiches" or presses. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

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GUATEMALA PROVIDES RUBBER SCRAP. The War Department reports that 3,000 pounds of rubber scrap were delivered recently to this country by air from Guatemala after it had been collected voluntarily by police, boy scouts, and citizens of that country. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICAN FACTORY TO MAKE COCOA AND COCOA BUTTER. Equipped with the latest machinery from the United States, the "Arca" S.A. is expected to produce the cocoa butter that was formerly imported from the U.S., the Netherlands and Brazil. The capital for this enterprise -- 25,000 pesos -- was obtained entirely from Mexican sources. One technician has been brought in from the United States. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY MEXICO AND U.S. An agreement which has been under negotiation for months cancels quota restrictions on imports into the United States of crude oil from Mexico and reduces tariff duty on numerous agricultural, mining and industrial products. The agreement is designed not only to facilitate trade for the duration and speed the war efforts of the two countries, but to provide a better basis for expansion of commerce across the Rio Grande in post-war years. Scheduled to go into effect thirty days after proclamation by the Presidents of the two Republics the agreement embodies concessions affecting 203 items in the Mexican tariff. The substantial concessions made to Mexico on petroleum, which place that country on a basis equal to and in one respect superior to Venezuela and Colombia, were interpreted as matters of war necessity, as were concessions on imports of Mexican zinc oxide, turpentine and resin, vanilla beans, fluorspar, graphite, onyx, lead, sawed lumber and timber, cattle, horses, mules, certain fruits and vegetables and other products. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

URUGUAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT U.S. Dr. Alberto Guani, Foreign Minister and Vice President elect, describes his forthcoming trip as an act of "courtesy and fraternal union between the peoples and governments of Uruguay and of the United States." (N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA SPURS COOPERATIVE SYSTEM. Aided by the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 600 rural units have already given impetus to Venezuela's movement to return to the soil. The mutual-aid program is under the direction of Dr. A. Fabra Rivas, who has started classes in the government agricultural school which will train specialists in the organization of cooperatives. The cooperatives have given farmers access to machinery, seeds, fertilizer and working capital; and have already insured Venezuela against serious shortages of vital goods which have heretofore been imported in large quantities. (N.Y. Times)

SHORTAGE OF RUBBER TREES IN VENEZUELA DUE TO JUNGLE RIVER FISH. The morocoto, a fruit-eating fish, also has a penchant for rubber tree seeds, and is responsible for eating nearly all the seeds of the hevea brasiliensi. Due to changes in the course of several of the Orinoco's large tributaries, the larger part of this rubber region has been flooded several months of the year at the reproduction season. Although there are hundreds of thousands of rubber trees in the Alto Orinoco, nearly all are more than 30 or 40 years old, since the morocoto fish have not permitted any new ones to get started. (Christian Science Monitor)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 470

January 8, 1943

MOVEMENT OF EXPORT CARGO TO CUBA, CENTRAL AMERICA and the East Coast of South America has been improved, it is reported in shipping circles. Much of the credit is given to orderly regulation through the control of export licenses and shipping permits issued by the Board of Economic Warfare. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

REGULAR STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND HAVANA results from negotiations between the Cuban and Argentine Governmental Commissions. Shipping between the two countries has greatly increased during the war. (N.Y. Times)

ARGENTINE CASEIN SUPPLIES ARE LARGER. Supplies were estimated to be between 9,500 and 10,500 tons on December 15, 1942, and it has been indicated that supplies at the end of the year would reach some 12,000 tons. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL ESTABLISHES NEW AGRICULTURAL BUREAU to assist in the development of truck farming in and about Rio de Janeiro where the Government has been carrying out a huge reclamation project. The land is very rich and, with the reclamation work now well under way, it will not be long before truck farmers will be in a position to increase the amount of foodstuffs available for domestic consumption. (Export Trade and Shipper)

BRAZIL CLOSES 1942 WITH FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE according to report of the American Brazilian Association. A credit balance of \$43,000,000 in favor of Brazil was estimated for the first 10 months of 1942, compared to \$52,000,000 for the same period during 1941. Prices were higher in 1942 and stocks of export items were heavy, but transportation difficulties cut both export and import volumes considerably. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL SPURS FOOD PROGRAM. The Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Apolonio Sales, has announced Government plans to distribute \$175,000 worth of seeds to farmers of the north and northeastern States of Brazil to encourage increased food production for that strategic area. Northern Brazil lacks rail communications to the leading food-producing areas of the south. In view of the shipping shortage this has emphasized the food supply problem during the influx of defense and rubber-gathering forces. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL'S FISHHOOK SUPPLY IN THE AMAZON REGION IS EXHAUSTED. Ambassador Caffery recently received a telegram reading: "We need 1,000,000 fishhooks... If no fishhooks, no fish; no fish, no eat, and no eat, no rubber." (N.Y. Times)

BRAZIL TO TAKE OVER THE NAVIGATION COMPANIES OF THE SAO FRANCISCO RIVER. With the cooperation of American technicians the Government hopes to establish an entirely new transportation system of this important waterway which serves one of the richest areas of Brazil. (N.Y. Times)

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CHILE USES GRAPE RESIDUES FOR MOTOR-FUEL. The mixture, known as "Alcoholina," consists of 80 percent alcohol produced from grape residues, 15 percent benzene, and 5 percent benzol. As the output of grape sugar in Chile is very large, prospects are good for the production of large quantities of the fuel mixture. (Foreign Commerce Weekly)

COLOMBIA'S BUDGET FOR 1943 TOTALS 122,509,400 PESOS, with the largest amount, 18,339,073 pesos, assigned to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, which administers the public debt. The War Department ranks next with 13,804,674 pesos, followed by the Ministry of Government with 12,674,702 pesos and the Ministry of Public Works with 12,419,996 pesos. (N.Y. Times)

CUBA ESTABLISHES A "NATIONAL COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE" to study the food production problems of the country and to recommend to the Minister of Agriculture any suggested improvements which may be necessary. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

MEXICO PAYS NINTH ANNUAL INSTALLMENT due on debt of \$8,000,000, representing the full settlement of claims of Americans for personal and property damages suffered during the Mexican revolution of a quarter of a century ago. The total still due is \$3,500,000. (N.Y. Times)

VENEZUELA TO PURCHASE FARM MACHINERY FROM U.S. A credit of \$6,000,000 has been granted by the Export-Import Bank to the Banco Agrícola Pecuario, an agricultural bank controlled by the Venezuelan Government. One of these credits has been established to aid the Banco Agrícola in financing the coffee and cocoa crops throughout the Republic up to and including the 1944 seasons. The other credit has been extended to aid in financing a program designed to increase the production of agricultural products, stimulate cattle raising, and improve the strain of livestock. Part is to be used for the purchase in the United States of farm machinery, equipment and implements. (Export Trade and Shipper)

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 471

January 15, 1943

GENERAL JUSTO DIES. With the death of former Argentine President General Agustin P. Justo, the United Nations lose a staunch friend and advocate of Pan American solidarity. (Christian Science Monitor)

COSTA RICA INVITES VICE-PRESIDENT WALLACE to attend the dedication of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. (Christian Science Monitor)

PANAGRA RATE REDUCTIONS. Improved operating methods and increased passenger movement have made possible a substantial reduction in international travel rates between the United States and South America by reducing mile cost of transportation, according to Harold J. Roig, president of Pan American Grace Airways. Mr. Roig added, -- "We believe that by constantly reducing the cost to the publicwe will further strengthen the position of American aviation in South America, and assist good understanding and co-operative effort between the Americas." (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

NEW RECIPROCAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO will enter into full force on January 30. Recalling that the agreements with Peru and Uruguay required considerably longer periods between the time of signing and the date of full effectiveness, traders noted that Mexican trade at present is such that it was particularly desirable that the new agreement become valid without delay. No shipping problem is involved in trade with Mexico, and the nation is enjoying an economic boom and is anxious to obtain supplies from here. Exporters are eager to take advantage of the concessions which have been granted them by Mexico.

Traders agree that substantial benefits to commerce will be achieved under the pact. Concessions obtained by the United States under the agreement affect more than 200 items, with duties on 76 items reduced and 127 additional products bound against changes. The United States, in turn, made concessions on products covered by 103 paragraphs of the Tariff Act of 1930, providing reductions which apply to 57 paragraphs, and bindings to 46 paragraphs, of which 31 cover products which are duty free. Products on which concessions were made by the United States accounted for a value of 64.7 percent of the total 1939 imports from Mexico. (N. Y. Times)

ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSES SUSPENDED TO SEVEN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. With the explanation that large backlogs of already licensed commodities have been built up, well in excess of available shipping space, exporters have been notified that, until March 1, the BEW would consider virtually no new export license applications for Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. This will make possible a reappraisal of outstanding licenses and coordination of licenses more closely with available shipping and the most urgent needs of the countries concerned; it will end the present situation under which Latin American customers have been operating under a mistaken notion that license approval would insure delivery of ordered goods. The validity of outstanding licenses is not affected, and the new program under consideration will not cause any interruption or delay in continuing shipments to the countries affected, within the available shipping space. There are more than enough goods, licensed and available for shipment, ready to go forward. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL SPEEDS RUBBER PRODUCTION. Determined to move 50,000 workers into the Amazon region within 3 months, despite the fact that the recently signed agreement between Brazil and the United States required only that the big group of migrant labor arrive by May 31, Brazil speeds the recruiting program. Laborers will come largely from the drought-stricken northeastern Brazilian State of Ceara and Rio Grande do Norte, where tens of thousands are jobless. (Christian Science Monitor)

BRAZIL NUT PRODUCTION LOWER. According to recent reports issued by the United States Department of Commerce, production of Brazil nuts in the Amazon Valley during the 1942 crop year (September 1, 1941 to August 31, 1942) amounted to 52,558,240 pounds. During the corresponding period of 1940-41, production was 59,665,000 pounds. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

UNITED STATES FARM EQUIPMENT AND SEED GO TO COSTA RICA. The Institute of Inter-American Affairs has announced that some 2,000 pounds of vegetable seeds and about \$25,000 in garden equipment have been sent to Costa Rica to enable farmers there to increase food production for the Panama Canal Zone. Orders have been placed for other substantial amounts of seeds.

Besides food for defense forces in Panama and the saving of shipping space, the Costa Rican project is expected to provide farmers with a timely source of income, now that the country's usual exports carry a lower preference on shipping space than war materials. (Export Trade and Shipper)

NEW SHIPYARD FOR MEXICO. A Federal concession has been obtained for the construction at Tampico of a dry dock capable of building vessels up to 15,000 tons. The franchise is for 20 years, and the Government will assume control of the business upon its expiration. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce.)

SUGAR IMPORTS FROM MEXICO CURBED. An order by the United States Customs collector prohibits further across-the-border sugar importations by individuals and establishes rules for dealings by commercial users. Heretofore, residents of El Paso, who have been getting Mexican sugar to supplement their rations, have been free to bring across the border up to 2 kilograms (about 4.4 pounds) without duty and unlimited amounts upon which duty was paid. (Christian Science Monitor)

NICARAGUA FREEZES NEWSPRINT. The National Price Control Commission has frozen all newsprint stock throughout Nicaragua and will fix prices. A previous order had already reduced the size of Nicaraguan papers because of the lack of newsprint. (N.Y. Times)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS

LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DIGEST

No. 472

January 22, 1943

SECRETARY HULL WELCOMES CHILE'S BREAK WITH THE AXIS as a contribution to the security of the continent. Chile severed relations with Germany, Italy, and Japan on January 20, 1943. (Washington Post)

ANALYSIS OF U.S. ADVERTISING IN LATIN AMERICA is published in the January 18, 1943 issue of the "Export Trade and Shipper". Also included in a "Directory of Foreign Radio Stations and Their United States Representatives" are stations of Latin America. (Export Trade and Shipper)

NEW GAZETTEER-INDEX OF LATIN AMERICA IN PREPARATION. Dr. John K. Wright, director of the American Geographical Society, has announced that the Society, in cooperation with the Office of Inter-American Affairs, is preparing an index of the famous "Millionth Map" of Hispanic America. The index will give the location of approximately 300,000 names by the nearest half degree of latitude and longitude. (Christian Science Monitor)

AMERICAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION LAUNCHES LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM. The United States must see to it that our technical and quality standards get consideration if post-war trade is to be maintained, according to Cyrus T. Brady, Jr., field representative of the Association.

The Latin American movement for standardization took definite form some five or six years ago in Argentina and Brazil and is spreading rapidly. Uruguay now has an active standardization institute, and Chile is expected to recognize a similar institute soon. A Committee for South American Standards, aiming at ultimately obtaining uniformity throughout the continent, is already in existence, although not yet functioning actively.

Mr. Brady declared that the interest of American business men in standardization in the Latin American markets is "obvious" since, when normal imports are resumed, American exporters will find that their products must conform to the standards existing there. (N.Y. Times)

NEW NAMES FOR U.S. BLACKLIST. The State Department reveals that 454 additional concerns and individuals in Latin America and elsewhere have been added to the list of those with whom citizens of the United States are forbidden to trade and that 62 names previously on that list have been deleted.

The names are listed in cumulative Supplement No. 3, effective January 16, to the Proclaimed List of Certain Blocked Nations, containing additions, amendments and deletions made since Revision IV of November 12, 1942. (N. Y. Journal of Commerce)

ARGENTINE RADICALS STUDY UNITED FRONT. The national convention of the Radical party has approved appointment of a committee to mobilize all liberal organizations for an attempt to defeat the Castillo Government's candidates in next September's presidential elections. The original proposal for such collaboration came from the Socialists and was at first strongly resisted by a majority of Radicals. (N.Y. Times)

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NEW SHIPS FOR BRAZIL. Negotiations between the Brazilian Government and the Higgins interests in Louisiana for the construction of vessels for Brazil are understood to be now under way. The vessels to be constructed, it was said, would be of a type suitable for Amazon and Brazilian coastal traffic. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

CUBAN LABOR FOR U. S. INDUSTRY. Negotiation with Washington for the employment of Cuban workers in U. S. war industries will soon be completed, according to the Cuban Minister of State, Agustín Martínez.

The Cuban Government has imposed conditions in the labor contract to include guarantee that wages will not be inferior to those earned in Cuba and that workers will be returned to Cuba if they are not satisfied. (N.Y. Times)

MEXICAN EXPORT PERMITS. Under provisions of an executive decree, prior export licenses are required on an additional list of products considered to be essential for national needs in Mexico. These products are raw cotton, with or without seed; wax and wooden matches; chickpeas containing more than 500 peas per 300 grams, net weight; and flour. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

SANITATION PROJECT IN NICARAGUA. Work has started on a \$300,000 sanitation project in Managua, which calls for the building of a drainage and spraying system for the lake front and a trench around the city to carry off the excessive rainwater which periodically causes floods. Other contemplated sanitary measures include the erection of a nursing school and a malarial control set-up as well as the establishment of health centers in other parts of the Republic. (N.Y. Times)

PERUVIAN EXPORTATION OF GOODS, manufactured or natural, has been prohibited by a decree of the Government, with exception made for goods under prior export permits granted only after national requirements are met. The decree also prohibits the re-exportation of merchandise imported to meet national requirements, except for articles sent abroad for repair, samples, and containers necessary to import food products. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

GRAIN HAULING RESTRICTED BETWEEN MEXICO AND CANADA. The Interstate Commerce Commission has banned the use of United States rail facilities for the hauling of grain in carloads between "points in a foreign country through the United States to points in another foreign country" because of shortage of railroad equipment and congestion of traffic. While the order does not name Canada and Mexico specifically, the United States has no rail connection with other foreign countries. (Christian Science Monitor)

VENEZUELA TO HUNT RUBBER BY AIR. In late February and March, when the leaves of the Hevea trees turn yellow and stand out against the deep green of the rest of the jungle, pilots will photograph the rubber areas. Squads of gatherers may then be assigned to their work from the aerial map, without recourse to expensive exploratory expeditions into the dangerous jungle. (N.Y. Times)

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LATIN AMERICAN NEWS DEGEST

No. 473

January 29, 1943

DR. ALBERTO GUANI VISITS THE UNITED STATES. The Foreign Minister and Vice President elect of Uruguay stated that the object of his visit was "to investigate the causes and find solutions to the problems that have now become in South America grave and urgent." The problems are principally economic. (N.Y. Times)

SURVEY INDICATES TRADE BETTERMENT IN LATIN AMERICA. Although it had been anticipated during 1942 that conversion to a wartime economy would have disruptive effects on Latin American trade, the latest semi-annual survey of the Foreign Credit Interchange Bureau of the National Association of Credit Men finds all American markets rated as good or fairly good as regards credit, and all, as regards collections, are rated as prompt. Exports have been held at high levels. During 1942 United States exports to Latin America were said to have been half a billion dollars less than our Latin American imports, justifying the high rating of the markets and continuation of peacetime terms. The survey discloses that only one out of ten exporters have ceased to accord usual terms to their Latin American buyers.

Covering 200 manufacturers and exporters located in all parts of the United States, the survey included a widely representative group of American products. It is emphasized by the Bureau, however, that only the commercial situation within the various Latin American countries was covered in making the survey, to the exclusion of consideration of Governmental debts or service obligations of the countries.

The trend toward trade betterment in Latin America has been in effect since mid-1940. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

BRAZIL'S SUGAR AREA HURT. Heavy floods around Campos, the sugar center of the State of Rio de Janeiro, have caused property damage estimated to amount to about 500,000 bags of sugar and 5,000,000 liters of alcohol. (N.Y. Journal of Commerce)

NEW COLOMBIAN LOAN. The Bank of the Republic has offered for subscription 15,000,000 pesos of short-term Treasury notes, with service on them guaranteed by the National Defense Bonds deposited by the Government. Annual rates of interest on the notes are 3 percent on those maturing in 6 months, 4 percent on 12 months, and 6 percent on 24 months. (N.Y. Times)

REFUGEE CONVOY TO MEXICO. The United States and Great Britain have agreed to convoy the first contingent of an estimated 10,000 Polish refugees, who will come to Mexico from Iran, to remain for the duration of the war. (N.Y. Times)

NEW FARM PROGRAM IN PANAMA. Intent on meeting its own food needs and even growing food for United States armed forces in order to save shipping space, Panama has instituted a new farm program. Although only slightly larger than the State of Maine and with an acute labor shortage due to the fact that one third of the country's "employables" are at work on war projects in the Canal Zone, Panama has already raised corn production 42 percent in

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1942 over production in 1941. Corn is second only to rice as a staple in the country's popular diet. Thousands of acres of former banana plantations are being converted to crops more urgently needed.

As outlined by the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, Ernesto B. Fábrega, the new farm program embraces the following 12 features -- (1) The organization of 200 co-operative farm societies, each made up of 90 farm families. Members will make co-operative use of the Government owned farm machinery which has been ordered from the United States. (2) The foundation of an Agricultural College and an experimental station for the purpose of introducing more modern methods. Foreign agricultural experts have been brought to Panama to aid in accelerating change from the primitive type of farming. (3) The establishment of a farm bank to make loans to farmers. (4) A strict control of farm prices by the Government, which purchases any surplus crops. (5) Teaching of modern scientific farm methods to one representative from each farm community, who is charged with the responsibility of teaching his neighbors. Many deserving young students have been given scholarships to United States Agricultural Colleges. (6) Establishment of a farm colony in the neighborhood of the Santa Marta prison to utilize prison labor for the good of the community. (7) Three irrigation projects in areas where it is expected that production can be increased by at least 300 percent. (8) Distribution of 35,000 "chicks", imported by air express from the United States to improve the quality of poultry. (9) An Executive Decree which empowers the Government to parcel out to small farmers the use of either public or private lands not already under cultivation or use for cattle ranges. (10) Expansion of the agricultural budget from the former \$250,000 for each 2-year period to \$3,000,000 for 1943-44. (11) A propaganda campaign to educate the country's farmers and to encourage other persons to go into agricultural pursuits. (12) Establishment of numerous stations throughout the country, for the distribution of seeds, seedlings, and fruit trees. (Christian Science Monitor)

MORE WHEAT TO MEXICO. As the result of an extension to February 9 of the Government's 25-cents-a-bushel subsidy on exports to certain Latin American countries, a considerable quantity of additional wheat will probably be shipped to Mexico from the United States.

The possibility of similar shipments to other Latin American countries was considered somewhat remote by grain men. Canadian bonded grain is being moved to Gulf ports and shipped by vessel at rates lower than those needed by American grain shippers, even with the subsidy. (N.Y. Times)